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TUESDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 1942

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SHOT AS HE LAY ON BED

YOUNG SOLDIER'S TRAGIC DEATH

A 23-year-old soldier who had been in the Army only a few months met his death as the result of an extraordinary and tragic accident at Broadstairs.

The man was Gnr. Harry Spencer and he was accidentally shot through the leg when lying on his bed at his billet on Wednesday. The billet was situated above the guardroom and a shot from a rifle held by a member of the guard went through the ceiling and hit Spencer as he lay on the bed. He was removed to Ramsgate General Hospital, where he died on Saturday.

An inquest into the circumstances surrounding the accident was held by the Deputy Coroner, Mr. E. C. Allfree, at Ramsgate on Monday.

An officer stated that Spencer joined the unit on 5th January, having enlisted in the Army in August. He came from a training regiment and it was the first field unit to which he had been attached.

On Wednesday at about 7.30 p.m. he was sitting in his office when he heard what sounded like a rifle shot. Going outside, witness was told that a man had been shot through the leg. He immediately went to the man's billet, which was in part over the guardroom. Spencer, who was lying on the floor, appeared to be in a coma and fainted almost immediately. He was bleeding from the thigh and orderlies were attending to him. When a doctor arrived ten minutes later the man's wound had been dressed.

Loaded Rifle.

Witness said he went to the guardroom and found that a soldier had been handling a loaded rifle prior to going on sentry duty and that it had gone off, the shot passing through the ceiling above to the room where Spencer was. He produced a copy of standing orders which, he said, was read out to the guard and was displayed in the guardroom. These were to the effect that the magazine of a rifle should be charged under the orders of an N.C.O. The man who discharged the rifle had been with the unit since 17th January.

Sgt. William Martin, who was in charge of the guard on the night of the accident, said he read the standing orders to them. A soldier named Tyce was a member of the guard and was due for the second relief. About 7.30 p.m. witness reminded another N.C.O. that it was nearly time for the second relief to go on. Shortly afterwards witness heard the report of a rifle in the guardroom.

He looked towards the rifle rack and saw Tyce with a rifle in his hand. Tyce at once said he was sorry for what had occurred and that he did not know he had "put one up the spout."

Witness reprimanded him for touching the ammunition before he had been told to do so. Up to this time witness had given no orders for the ammunition to be touched. He examined the guardroom and found a small hole in the ceiling. Just afterwards it was reported to him that a soldier had been shot in the billet situated above the guardroom. He went to this room and saw Spencer lying on a bed. He was receiving first-aid treatment.

Second Time on Guard.

Herbert Arthur Tyce described how he went on guard duty on Wednesday and said the standing orders were read out. He was due to go on patrol at 7.35 and about 7.30 he got up from the guardroom fire and walked over to the gun rack.

"I picked up my rifle, took five rounds, and pushed them into the magazine one by one," said witness. "I pressed them right down and shot the bolt."

The Coroner: Did you intend that one round should go into the chamber?

Witness: No.

After shutting the bolt you pressed the trigger?—Yes.

What for?—It was a thing that was taught us when we were on sentry go.

For the purpose of uncocking it?—Yes.

And the rifle went off, did it?—Yes.

Witness said the rifle was pointing upwards and the bullet went through the ceiling. He thought a bullet got into the chamber because he did not properly attend to the bolt. He thought it was his duty to load his rifle without waiting for instructions. It was the second time he had been on guard at this particular station. On the first occasion he loaded his rifle under the instructions of an N.C.O.

Witness said he joined the Army on 11th September last and he had not been trained in the loading of a rifle before coming to Broadstairs.

Loss of Blood.

Dr. G. Gillett said when Spencer was admitted to Ramsgate Hospital he was collapsed and suffering from loss of blood caused through a wound in the left thigh. He was unfit for an operation owing to his weak condition. Treatment was immediately started and carried on throughout the night. The following morning his condition was decidedly better and it was agreed to operate. Following the operation Spencer's condition was fairly satisfactory until Friday.

Complications set in but owing to the nature of the leg injuries it was considered impossible to amputate with the idea of saving his life. He got rapidly worse and died from toxæmia.

Sydney Robert Rogers, a soldier serving in the same unit as deceased, said that on the night in question he was sitting by the fire in his billet writing a letter. The billet was partly over the guardroom.

Witness was walking over to Spencer's bed when he suddenly heard a shot. Deceased fell back on his blankets, clutching his left leg. Witness bent down to him and found he was bleeding very freely from the top part of his leg.

Witness at once summoned medical aid. He afterwards went to the guardroom and reported what had happened.

Summing up, the Deputy Coroner said there was no doubt the deceased died as the result of a bullet wound. He was quite satisfied that the rifle was accidentally discharged, and the verdict would be one of "Accidental death."

The Deputy Coroner said he felt that Tyce was inexperienced in the use of a rifle and that the instruction he had received before being put on guard was very meagre.

CIVIL DEFENCE

KEEPS SANITARY INSPECTOR BUSY

Matters of civil defence occupied the bulk of the time of Mr. F. S. Burrow, Broadstairs Sanitary Inspector, last year.

In his annual report Mr. Burrow mentions that the number of evacuated people dealt with now totals 2,581. They were mainly responsible for the fact that he had to write 1,006 letters and conduct 1,588 interviews or visits, while 103 requisitions in regard to children's boots and clothing were dealt with and 141 vouchers issued for cheap railway facilities to visit evacuated persons.

The number of children who had returned to the district by 19th January, according to those registered, was 190.

The report also deals with the technical and practical training of personnel in regard to the decontamination of food and clothing for which Mr. Burrow agreed to be responsible at Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

Other civil defence matters which came within his province included deaths due to war operations, registration of casualties and persons rendered homeless by enemy action.

Nine samples of water submitted for chemical analysis and 19 for bacteriological examination all proved satisfactory throughout, indicating good water, organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

IRRECOVERABLE RATES

BROADSTAIRS FIGURES

A statement presented to Broadstairs Council Finance Committee by the Rating Officer, Mr. W. H. B. White, shows that during the year ended 31st March last, a sum of £1,417 17s. 2d. in respect of general rate and £268 5s. in respect of water rate was excused on grounds of poverty and other reasons.

The reduction and revision of assessments further decreased the amount recoverable by £8,298 19s. 4d. (general rate) and £194 9s. 3d. (water).

For empty properties allowances had to be made to the extent of £32,441 16s. 2d. (general), £5,305 1s. 4d. (water) and a further allowance of £4,388 10s. 2d. was made in respect of water rate where premises were left furnished but unoccupied.

In the aggregate the amounts reported irrecoverable for the year came to £42,728 4s. 9d. (general) and £10,138 14s. 7d. (water).

At a meeting last month the Finance Committee considered the cases of 33 more ratepayers who asked for remission on the grounds of hardship.

The draft estimates of the rate for the year ending 31st March, 1943, will be considered on 16th February.

SOFT WATER AT BROADSTAIRS

The practice of softening the water supply at Broadstairs is to be continued during 1942 and the chairman of the Waterworks Committee (Councillor F. Foster) has been authorised to accept a tender for salt.

A NEW CAREER

CMDR. HEWLETT TAKES UP TEACHING

At the age of 61, Cmdr. R. S. Hewlett, R.N. (retd.), is starting a new career as a schoolmaster.

Cmdr. Hewlett, who entered the Navy in 1894, has for the past 19 years been in charge of H.M. Coast Guard Station at Ramsgate and, immediately following his retirement, has accepted a post as assistant master at Selwyn House Preparatory School, formerly of Broadstairs, which is now established at Llanfyllin, Wales. His long association with boys as Leader of the East Cliff Scouts should give him a flying start in the new profession he has adopted with a view to releasing a younger man for active service.

In connection with his departure from Ramsgate, Cmdr. Hewlett writes to the Editor:

Sir,—For many years past you have afforded me the hospitality of your columns, chiefly for matters connected with the East Cliff Scouts, who, under their new Leader, Mr. Sherrington, will continue to function as hitherto.

For the last time, I ask your help in order to bid farewell to our many friends in Ramsgate, who, by reason of their temporary absence from the town, on our "last-minute rush," Mrs. Hewlett and myself are unable to visit personally.

The 19 years we have spent in Ramsgate have indeed been happy ones for us, and we have enjoyed not only the many friendships we have made—largely through our Scouts—but also the unvarying courtesy and efficient service of the traders with whom we have dealt for so long.

We have received many good wishes for a "well-earned rest," "a peaceful retirement," etc., but as I feel far too young to "rest" and am anxious to do something useful to help the war effort, I have been looking round for a suitable outlet for my energies. Many of your readers may therefore be interested to know that I have secured a post as assistant master at Selwyn House Preparatory School, Llanfyllin (Wales)—formerly at Broadstairs—where I shall in due course release a young man for the fighting services. Thus my long and active connection with boys will continue.

In conclusion I would like to thank you for the help you have given us through your widely circulating journal which we shall eagerly look forward to receiving every week in our new surroundings.

POLICE BROKE IN

RAMSGATE LIGHTING OFFENDERS

Returning to her home in Goodwin-road, Ramsgate, on the evening of 18th January, Miss Elsie Ethel Woodman, aged 26, draper's assistant, was surprised to find that she could not switch on the electric light. She then discovered that the bulb had been removed from a reading lamp and the window was broken.

At Ramsgate police court on Monday, when Miss Woodman was summoned for permitting a light to show after black-out, W/R French said he saw a light shining from an unscreened window at the house at 10.15 p.m. The light was coming from a reading lamp on a table near the window. As he could get no reply to knocking he broke a small top window, put in his hand and removed the bulb. When he saw defendant the following day she said "I was not aware the light had been shining until I came home that night and found the light would not switch on, the bulb was missing and the window broken."

Defendant said the offence was due to carelessness on her part. When she took the black-out down that morning she must have forgotten to switch off the light and it was burning all day.

Defendant was fined 30s.

For a similar offence committed at his shop in King-street on 23rd January, Frederick Ashby Stockley, aged 56, a butcher, of St. Luke's-avenue, was fined £2.

P/C Close said that at 7.30 p.m. he saw a light shining from the office window at the rear of the premises. He forced an entry, extinguished the light, and then secured the premises again. Later in the evening, when he saw defendant at his home, he told witness he left the premises before black-out time and must have left the light on.

Defendant told the magistrates it was an oversight on his part.

SALVAGE (OFFICIAL)

Broadstairs Council have authorised the Clerk, Mr. E. F. Owen, to surrender for salvage all books, documents and papers belonging to the Council which, in his opinion, it is no longer necessary to keep.

BLACK-OUT TIMES

To-day	... 6.22 p.m.—8.5	a.m.
Wednesday	. 6.24 p.m.—8.3	a.m.
Thursday	... 6.25 p.m.—8.2	a.m.
Friday	... 6.27 p.m.—8.0	a.m.
Saturday	... 6.28 p.m.—7.59	a.m.
Sunday	... 6.30 p.m.—7.57	a.m.
Monday	... 6.32 p.m.—7.56	a.m.

HOME GUARD HONOUR

CERTIFICATE FOR RAMSGATE MAN

The exceptional services rendered to the Home Guard by a Ramsgate man have been officially recognised.

He is Sgt. A. S. Dyer, D Company (Ramsgate), Kent Home Guard, and he has been awarded a certificate from the Lieut.-General Chief of General Staff, Home Forces, for "devotion to duty and good services rendered to the Home Guard."

Sgt. Dyer has been a member of Ramsgate Home Guard since its inception. An "old soldier," he has to his credit 21 years' regular Army service.

During the last war he served originally with the West Riding Regiment but transferred to the Machine-gun Corps. Later he was again transferred to the 3rd Batt. Royal Tank Regiment.

The greater part of his 21 years' service was spent abroad. He was in India for 18 years and took part in two engagements on the North-West Frontier.

While in the Machine-gun Corps, Sgt. Dyer became a sergeant-instructor and the fact that he has put his knowledge to good use is proved by the honour awarded him.

Sgt. Dyer is at present employed by Messrs. Wilson and Son, bakers, of Addington-street.

THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY

SALVATIONIST LEADER AT RAMSGATE

As an acknowledgment of the work of the Ramsgate Salvationists in keeping the flag flying through the difficulties of the past two years, General George L. Carpenter, head of the Salvation Army throughout the world, accompanied by Mrs. Carpenter, paid a visit to the Ramsgate Citadel on Sunday.

There was a large congregation of both Salvationists and townspeople of other denominations, and the General brought with him a simple message of encouragement and hope.

Gen. Carpenter said they had been proud of the way in which many of their Army comrades had kept the flag flying in difficult days. More than at any other time in the history of the world it was now important that the people of God should be pronounced in their utterances and beliefs. There were influences abroad in the world which made many of them deeply concerned. Thoughtful men had given it as their judgment that in Christian England, a land exalted to heaven through Christian influences, not 10 per cent. of the population could be regarded as practising Christians. This was a challenge to the people of faith to show their allegiance to God.

Things which were happening in the world to-day, said the General, had nothing to do with the nations as such. The distress being caused had nothing to do with the ideologies of different people. They were part of the eternal conflict between the forces of light and the forces of darkness. They took an expression today which was very destructive. It was still the same old spirit of evil contending with the forces of righteousness. People tried to find a reason for it in the political or economic views of the different nations. When they analysed it they found it all came from the selfishness of the human heart—the heart which had chosen its own way instead of God's way. It did not require any great understanding. Their task was to bring men and women into the right relationship with God and that was at the back of everything which the Army was doing.

Gen. Carpenter said that from countries in all parts of the world, from Norway, from Denmark, from Holland, from Germany, from the Baltic States and from the Far East came reports which encouraged their hearts by the splendid stand their comrades were making. It was a challenge to the very best of which they were capable.

They could see in the conditions of the world at the present time their greatest opportunity. He did not believe God was bound by circumstances. There was before them probably an unexampled opportunity for making known, and making the world realise, the wonder of the grace of God and the wonder of His redeeming love.

The service included items by the band and Songsters, and a message of hope was also delivered by Mrs. Carpenter.

During the afternoon Gen. and Mrs. Carpenter addressed a public meeting at Hawley-square Methodist Church, Margate.

BIRCHINGTON MECHANIC MISSING

Pte. William Castle, The Buffs, whose mother, Mrs. A. J. Castle, lives at 1 Hillbrow-terrace, Birchington, has been posted as missing since 15th December.

A native of Birchington and an old boy of the Church of England School, Pte. Castle, aged 21 years, joined the Army five years ago and has served in Palestine and Egypt as a mechanic with the Motor Transport Section of The Buffs for the past three years.

BIGAMY CHARGE

Sequel to St. Peter's Wedding

SOLDIER REMANDED

The recent wedding at St. Peter's between a soldier and a Broadstairs woman had a sequel at the Cinque Ports police court, Margate, on Monday.

The soldier, Gnr. George Albert Fountain, aged 36, was charged that on 29th December he bigamously married Miss Pamela Iris Farthing at St. Peter's Church during the lifetime of his legal wife, Annie Clara Ellen Fountain.

D/C Self said that at about noon on 17th January he saw defendant in the presence of his commanding officer at a military billet at Broadstairs. He told him he was a detective officer and defendant replied "I know what it is about." Witness told him he had been making certain enquiries and he had reason to believe he had gone through a form of marriage with Miss Farthing at St. Peter's Church on 29th December. Defendant was cautioned and made no reply.

The officer said he took defendant to Broadstairs police station, where he was charged, and in reply he said "I plead guilty. I don't wish to make any statement."

Inspr. Hann applied for a remand until next Monday, when the case for the prosecution will be conducted by the County Prosecuting Solicitor, Mr. Eric Weale.

Defendant was remanded on bail until Monday.

SLIP SLIPPED HER MIND

WOMAN WARNED BY POLICE

"Evidently I am not in favour with the police because I have given Scotland Yard a little bit of information from time to time," said Letitia Adelina Bellis, aged 70, of Chapel-road, when she was summoned at Ramsgate police court on Monday for failing to produce her identity card at the police station as instructed by a police officer.

W/R G. Wood, of Broadstairs, said he was checking identity cards at Broadstairs railway station on 5th January when defendant arrived by a train which came from the direction of Ramsgate. She failed to produce her identity card and said she would produce it at Ramsgate police station. He served a form on her to produce it within two days.

P/C Weller said when he saw defendant at her home on 12th January and asked her why she had not produced her card she said "Just because I did not think it was necessary because I was back in my own area." She at first denied having the form served on her by W/R Wood but later produced it.

"I am a very poor woman," defendant told the magistrates. "All I have is the old age pension. The slip slipped my mind. It was an oversight."

The Chief Constable (Mr. S. F. Butler) said defendant had been a nuisance for some time.

"I am afraid she does not appreciate the importance of obeying instructions," said the Chief Constable. "We have had a lot of trouble with her in the tunnels. I think she will get into more serious trouble unless she realises the necessity for playing her proper part."

When the Chairman (Mr. H. J. Perry) announced that she would be fined 5s., defendant made the remark concerning the police quoted above.

MILLER—WAYLAND

AIR FORCE BLUE WEDDING

To a bride dressed in Air Force blue an airman was married by special license at Ramsgate Register Office on Saturday.

The bridegroom, an old boy of Chatham House School, was Frederick Liliford Miller, R.A.F., only son of Mrs. Miller, of 12 Bellevue-road, Ramsgate, and the late Mr. F. Miller, and the bride was Miss Beryl Eileen Wayland, younger daughter of Mrs. H. Wayland, of 333 Margate-road, Ramsgate, and the late Mr. Wayland.

The bride, given away by her mother, and attended by the bridegroom's sister, Miss Winifred Miller, wore a dress of Air Force blue, with navy blue accessories, and carried a spray of white heather. The bridesmaid was dressed in Burgundy velvet and satin, with hat to match, and wore a buttonhole of white heather.

Mr. Harry Wayland, brother of the bride, acted as best man.

A reception was afterwards held at the home of the bride, who wore navy blue when leaving for the honeymoon.

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FULLY LICENSED BAR UNTIL 12.30 a.m.

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Right of Admission or Re-admission Strictly Reserved

HONOUR FOR BROADSTAIRS

COUNCILLOR PEARSON'S NEW POST

Councillor B. J. Pearson, Chairman of Broadstairs Council, was on Friday elected chairman of the Kent Borough and Urban District Councils' Association.

Referring to the appointment at a meeting of Broadstairs Council on Monday, Councillor E. K. Minter said it was an honour both for Councillor Pearson and for Broadstairs.

Adding his congratulations, Councillor G. W. Lane said he had hoped that a report of the annual meeting of the association at Maidstone, at which Councillor Pearson was elected, would have come before them that afternoon. Those who had not attended the meetings of the association hardly realised how important were its deliberations. Its work was thought a great deal of by the Kent County Council.

Councillor Pearson said he had referred previously to the great amount of helpful information gained at the meetings of the association. During times like the present when local authorities had to face so many difficulties an association representing the whole of Kent—every borough and urban district except one was represented—was extremely valuable. He appreciated greatly the honour conferred on him and he would continue as far as possible to take the same active interest as he had in the past.

Councillor Pearson said it was a little early yet to expect a report of the meeting but it would be forthcoming in due course and the Council could then consider it.

CHILDREN AVOID DIPHTHERIA

During the second half of 1941, 341 children—166 under five years of age, 175 between five and 15—were immunised against diphtheria at Broadstairs and St. Peter's.

The figures are published in the quarterly report of Dr. A. M. Watts, Medical Officer of Health, who states that the number of cases of infectious disease was very low and that the health of the district had been satisfactory.

NEXT OF KIN

Last year 1,567 people, representing 684 households, at Broadstairs and St. Peter's registered the names and addresses of their next of kin.

The Council now propose to revise the list.

CHURCH SERVICES

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Preacher next Sunday:
REV. STANLEY B. GREEN

Services 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

You are warmly invited

WEST CLIFF BALLROOM

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
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DANCING
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Frederic Hargraves and His Orchestra

ADMISSION 1/-

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House Repairs of Every Description
NO JOB too SMALL or too LARGE to command Personal Attention
Telephone 300

TEMPORARY FIRE STATIONS

The Regional Commissioner having given an assurance that two temporary fire stations it is proposed to build at Broadstairs and St. Peter's will be removed at the expiration of the present emergency so that future development will not be impeded, Broadstairs Council have withdrawn their objections to the proposals.

SCALE OF CHARGES

Advertiser and Echo

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15 —	1/3	2/-	2/6	4/3	7/9	12/9	23/3
18 —	1/6	2/3	3/-	5/-	9/-	15/-	27/-
21 —	1/9	2/9	3/6	6/-	11/-	18/-	33/-
24 —	2/-	3/-	4/-	7/-	13/-	21/-	39/-
27 —	2/3	3/6	4/6	8/-	15/-	24/-	45/-
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36 —	3/-	4/6	6/-	11/-	18/-	33/-	54/-

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CHURCH HILL, RAMSGATE

SITUATIONS VACANT

QUIET, middle-aged Person wanted; good home, moderate wage; domestic duties, some cooking; 2 in family; indoor shelter.—Write, Box 611, "Advertiser" Office, Ramsgate. †89

EXPERIENCED Vanman wanted; good wages to suitable applicant. —County Laundry, Ramsgate. †91

EXPERIENCED General required; good wages to suitable applicant; comfortable home; liberal outings.—Apply, Mrs. W. J. Dean, Emsworth, Rowley Park, Stafford. 91

QUALIFIED Chemist, family business, lady or gent.—Littleworth Pharmacy, Weston-road, Stafford. †92

SHOP Assistants, male or female, required for grocery and provision trade; full scale wages paid.—Apply, Vye and Son, 24 St. Margaret's-street, Canterbury, or branches. †88

ROUNDSMAN or Roundswoman wanted.—Page's Dairies, 20 Victoria-road, Ramsgate. 88

SITUATIONS available in greyhound racing kennels (London tracks); wages £2 per week; living accommodation found; holidays with pay; Youths 16-18 years, experienced in hound or stable work, preferred.—Write, Box 150, c/o Pool's Advertising Service, Brettenham House, Strand, London, W.C.2.

URGENTLY Required, Women to serve as Restaurant Manageresses, Cooks, Counter Assistants and General and Kitchen Assistants in Army and Air Force Canteens on work which is classified as being of national importance and is a reserved occupation, to serve in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hants; good wages, with free board and lodging (or, if not available, cash allowance in lieu of board and lodging), also free uniform; applicants must be under 60 years of age; interviews can be arranged in all principal towns in these counties.—Apply, stating whether Mrs. or Miss, to N.A.A.F.I. (Dept. 8), 55 West-street, Reigate, Surrey. †88

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FOR SALE

CREOSOTE or Tar, 40 gallons 46/8 delivered; free barrels; Land Pipes all sizes.—Frank Coopers, Builders' Merchants, Canterbury. 72

CURRY'S Special Bargains.—Ladies' Cycles, £8/12/1; Gents' Cycles, £7/14/1; Battery Radios, £4/19/6; Ever Ready No. 3 H.T. Batteries, 12/4; Sterling Super H.Ts, 31/-; Camp Beds, 32/6; Sleeping Bags, 13/6; Electric Irons, 17/6; Leather School Sachels, 12/6; Electric Fires from 16/3.—Curry's Ltd., 28 High-street, Ramsgate.

WANTED TO PURCHASE

PIANO wanted, upright or baby grand, by first-class maker.—Write, stating particulars and price, Willmott, 259 Caledonian-road, London, N.1. 95

NO DETERIORATION

RAMSGATE'S HEALTHY CHILDREN

The healthy state of the children remaining in Ramsgate was referred to in the report of the Education Committee in committee confirmed at a meeting of Ramsgate Education Committee on Wednesday.

The report stated that the committee were pleased to note the general conclusion of the School Medical Officer (Dr. J. V. Walker) that, in spite of war conditions and the special circumstances of Ramsgate, an evacuation area where no school had been open for 15 months and where the problem of the deep tunnel shelter had introduced a new factor, it could not be said that any deterioration was observed in the health, nutritional state, nervous stability, cleanliness or even clothing of the children examined.

The committee approved the expenditure of £150 for the provision of dental equipment required by the School Dental Surgeon (Dr. R. Barber).

BROADSTAIRS TEMPLAR ANNIVERSARY

The 54th anniversary of the Star of the East Lodge, International Order of Good Templars, was celebrated at the Good Templar Hall, Edge End-road, Broadstairs, on Tuesday.

The Chief Templar, Miss O. Ware, presided and an address was given by the hon. chaplain, the Rev. W. Lomax Mackenzie, on "Motives, Methods and Success."

Solos were rendered by Master Thomas Turner and Mr. A. Bayford, and an encouraging report on the year's work was presented by the secretary, Mrs. L. A. Ware.

A special welcome was accorded Mrs. and Miss Vass, who were paying a brief visit to the town, and greetings and good wishes were received from a large number of friends, including Gnr. R. A. Whiteley, R.A., serving in the Middle East, who said his thoughts and prayers were always with them on Tuesday evenings.

The usual intercession service was conducted by the lodge chaplain, Mr. A. B. Impett, P.D.S.J.W.

SAID HE PLAYED SNOOKER

BOY OF 14 WHO EARNED £1/13/0 A WEEK

When a miner's son aged 14 appeared with his 11-year-old brother at Ramsgate juvenile court on Tuesday to account for their possession of 360 cigarettes stolen from a showcase at the King's Theatre on Sunday, 28th December, it was stated that he earned £1 13s. a week as a pitboy, of which he paid £1 9s. to his parents for his board.

W/R/C Frederick Ellis, who was on plain clothes duty in Broad-street at 10.30 p.m., said he saw the boys approaching from King-street. Near the Star Garage they stopped for a few moments before proceeding and when they were near the Commercial Hotel he saw the elder boy was carrying a carton of cigarettes under his arm. When asked where he got it he replied "I found them down the road." Told he would be taken to the police station, the boy repeated the statement and added "You must have put them there and waited for me to pick them up. I don't want them. You can have them." The boys then ran away and witness, giving chase, found the elder boy hiding in a garden in a neighbouring street.

W/R/C Ellis added that it was a bright moonlight night and he never saw the boys stoop or pick up anything. The next day, at the police station, the elder boy persisted in his story and when asked if the cigarettes were scattered or in the carton said "Four or five were on the path. The rest were in the carton."

D/C Ashby stated that when interviewed in the presence of his father on 29th December, the elder boy said he went to the King's with his younger brother and on leaving they both visited the Social Club in George-street in an endeavour to play a game of snooker. As they were unable to obtain a game they walked down Harbour-street and, returning, waited for a short time for a bus at the Odeon and then began to walk home up Broad-street. His brother found the carton of cigarettes and handed it to him. Later the same day the younger boy told a similar story but said the cigarettes were all in the carton and neither of them had to pick up any from the pavement.

The Open Window.

Mr. S. G. Blackburn, manager of the King's Theatre, said the performance finished at approximately 8.40 p.m. and before closing the building he left open a small window for ventilation purposes. When the police communicated with him the following morning he found the stays of the window had been pushed down, making an aperture through which a small person could have got in.

Miss Doris Lilian Arthur, usherette at the King's, identified her handwriting on the carton.

Inspr. Fittall said he questioned the elder boy closely when he was brought to the police station at 10.45 p.m. He persisted in his story and when asked why he ran away said he wanted to get home as he was on early turn at the pit and had to be up at 5 a.m. Witness took him home in the patrol car and found the father just going out to look for him. He was told the younger boy was in bed and did not disturb him.

C/Inspr. H. G. Butcher said the window was found broken open at 12.55 a.m.

The elder boy, repeating his story in court, said that on leaving the cinema they went to the Social Club to watch people playing.

The Clerk (Mr. E. A. Knight): Did they let you go in?—Yes, sir.

Boys of your age?—Yes.

At that time of night?—Yes.

In reply to Mr. C. J. Fells, a magistrate, the boy said there were two billiard tables at the club and he went there about three times a week.

Mr. Fells: How many other boys were there?—About a dozen.

Mr. Fells: Quite a kindergarten.

Mr. S. V. West, secretary to the Education Committee, reporting with regard to the younger boy, said he was evacuated with the main school party in June, 1940. He had responded well to domestic discipline in his billet and gave no trouble.

Return Not Reported.

The boy returned to Ramsgate last August but it was not until 21st January, after receipt of notice of the summons, that the parent attended to report the entry of the boy into the borough. Failure to do that immediately was an offence under the Defence Regulations but he could not say what action was likely to be taken in that case. No attempt was made to send the boy to school for part-time tuition and he did not attend for compulsory education until 19th January, although the schools were opened on 7th January.

The boy apparently did much as he liked and it would have been much better had he been allowed to remain in the reception arae.

Mr. W. H. Baines, K.E.C. Education Officer, said the elder boy's attendance at school in Staffordshire was regular and he made excellent progress.

Mr. B. K. Hemsley, Probation Officer, reporting that the elder boy had been placed on probation for two years in 1939 for shopbreaking, said he thought the father was concerned as to the welfare of the children but not very much about their character.

Inveterate Liars.

C/Inspr. Butcher said the boys were inveterate liars and it was impossible to get at the truth from their extreme statements. They had given the police a lot of trouble.

The Chairman (Mr. H. J. Perry) asked the police to go into the matter of the elder boy's statements regarding the club as it was a serious thing.

Remarking that there was evidence that the elder boy was a proper little liar, the Chairman said he would be fined £1, which the father would have to pay in a week.

The father was also ordered to pay within a fortnight 15s. costs on behalf of the younger boy, who was placed on probation for two years in his father's recognisances of £2, a stipulation of the probation being that he should be home by 9 p.m.

Addressing the father, who had said both were good boys, the Chairman said they did feel there had not been proper supervision on his part.

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Our Complete Short Story

A Work of Art

By V. G. DAWSON

Mr. Silas Buffler sat behind the counter of his tobacconist's shop and stared gloomily through his spectacles at the rain which beat and splashed against the closed shop door.

He thoughtfully polished his bald head with a large handkerchief.

"Who's likely to be out on a day like this?" he muttered, opening a little drawer beneath the counter. The drawer contained his special brand of cigarettes, one of which he selected and proceeded to light.

Mr. Buffler puffed at the cigarette with evident enjoyment, and reflectively watched the smoke curling up above his head.

Presently, his large face lit up as a man pushed open the door and entered the shop.

"Good afternoon, sir!" greeted the tobacconist, pressing his half-smoked cigarette into an ashtray.

"Good afternoon!" The visitor's thin voice was somewhat shrill. His small, beady black eyes roved round the shop.

"Miserable afternoon, sir!" observed the shopkeeper, affably.

"Yes, it is." The other deposited a brown paper parcel on the counter, opened his mackintosh and fished in his pocket.

"I'll have an ounce of those special cigarettes you've got in the window."

"Certainly, sir!" The tobacconist deftly weighed out the cigarettes, the while talking volubly of their flavour and mildness.

They chatted for a few minutes and then the stranger picked up his parcel. As if on second thought, however, he replaced it on the counter.

"I wonder if you'd do me a favour?" he asked.

"With pleasure, sir, if I can!"

"It's just this parcel," proceeded the short gentleman, apologetically. "I've got another call to make, and if you wouldn't mind looking after it for an hour—"

"Very pleased, I'm sure."

"Thanks!" He gazed meditatively at the parcel. "By the way, I don't know whether you're interested in this sort of thing, but it's a bit unusual."

Mr. Buffler looked on obligingly as the other removed the wrapper, disclosing a statuette. It was the figure of a mediæval knight, cast in a kind of plaster and about 12 inches in height.

"Very fine!" was the polite comment of Mr. Buffler, who was as much at home in artistic circles as a Hottentot in the arctic. "Nice bit of work!"

Family Heirloom.

"Yes, it's a family heirloom!" He gazed lovingly at the statuette for a moment; then, again thanking Mr. Buffler for his promise to look after it, and assuring him that he would return shortly, he made as if to leave the shop.

By the door, however, he paused, and looking back over his shoulder said:

"You needn't trouble to wrap it up again, because I shall be bringing a little box to carry it in. There'll be less fear of it getting damaged, then, I think."

"Very good, sir."

When the gentleman had gone, Mr. Buffler blinked at the ornament and fingered it gingerly. Then he placed it on one of the shelves behind him and turned to serve another customer who had just entered.

Business became a little brisker during the next hour, and Mr. Buffler, busy attending to his customers' wants, forgot all about the statuette for the time being.

It was getting on towards five o'clock when a tall, well-dressed man, with a small black moustache, entered the shop, and after purchasing a box of cigarettes, suddenly raised an eyeglass and scrutinised the object of art which reposed on the shelf.

"Excuse me," he remarked in a cultured voice, casting a glance over his shoulder to make sure that they were alone, "but I see you're interested in art!" He pointed to the statuette.

"Me, sir? Oh, no. That has been left by a gentleman who's calling back for it!"

The visitor leaned forward to examine the work more closely. Mr. Buffler, with a grin, took it down and placed it on the counter.

The tall man picked it up and regarded it critically.

"Do you know?" he asked in hushed tones, "that this is a genuine Ferravo?"

"Eh?" ejaculated Mr. Buffler, his eyes widening. "I'm afraid I don't, sir. You—you mean it's valuable?" He replaced it with a startled look on the shelf.

"I wonder," mused the other, ignoring the remark, "whether the owner realises its value."

"Couldn't say, sir, I'm sure!"

The tall man pondered for a few moments.

"I'd like to give him fifty pounds for it," he said softly, half to himself. "Look here," he went on, excitedly, "many people don't realise the value of these things. The chances are that this man doesn't. It's worth trying. If you can get it at a reasonable figure, I'll gladly give you twenty." He slipped his hand into his pocket and produced a card case.

"There's my card," he said grandly. "I'll call back before tea and if you've been able to purchase, well, we shall both be satisfied. But, for goodness sake, take care of it!" he added anxiously.

He left the shop, whilst the astonished tobacconist gazed in a bewildered way at the card.

"Mr. Charles Anderson Langton," he read aloud, in slow tones. "Well, if this isn't a scorcher!"

Tempting Deal.

He put the card into his pocket and turned round to look again at the work of art. He contemplated it in silence, a puzzled look on his face. He even touched it gently and then withdrew his hand quickly, lest even a touch might shatter its valuable beauty.

"Twenty pounds," he murmured. "If I could get it for two—"

He sat down again and thoughtfully lit a cigarette.

Mr. Buffler, in his slow way, had his principles. He believed in giving every man a square deal. The owner of this statuette may or may not realise its value. In all probability, he had picked it up for a mere song at a sale.

Very well, he would make a handsome profit if he got ten pounds for it.

"After all," mused Mr. Buffler, argumentatively, "business is business. If he sells it to me and he's satisfied, what's wrong with the deal?"

It was a sound argument and everything was quite straightforward.

He began to await with some excitement the owner's return. Presently, he was rewarded.

The short man entered the shop, looking rather tired.

"Here we are again," was his greeting. "I'll take my parcel now. Just time to catch my train!"

Mr. Buffler coughed and picked up the brown paper.

"Excuse me, sir," he began, carelessly, "but I've taken a bit of a liking to your ornament. I suppose you wouldn't want to sell it?"

"Sell it?" repeated the other, incredulously. "No, I couldn't do that. The fact is," he went on, in confidential tones, "it belonged to my grandmother. She died not long ago, and I've been along to claim it. I've had it promised for years. She was over ninety when she died!"

"How very sad," murmured the tobacconist, sympathetically. "But the point is," he added, cheerfully, and with a certain eagerness he could not conceal, "whether a bit of hard cash is more useful than sentiment!"

The visitor looked thoughtful. "It's not the value of it," he admitted, "so much as the—the association, if you see what I mean."

Mr. Buffler eyed him keenly and took a shot.

"Five pounds?" he hazarded, in a careless voice.

"No," replied the other, decisively. "My poor old grandmother's worth more than that!" He dabbed his eyes with a coloured handkerchief.

Then they got to grips. It took a quarter of an hour to come to terms.

Mr. Buffler handed his visitor ten one pound Treasury notes.

"And we'd better have a receipt," he added, as an afterthought. "Might as well do it properly!"

"Of course!" The visitor slowly wrote out a receipt for the amount, in which he disposed of all further rights to the precious statuette. The receipt bore the signature of one Silas Miggs.

"And I hope you're satisfied, Mr. Miggs," said the tobacconist. "Have a cigar?"

Miggs smiled amiably and took the gift, which he promptly began to enjoy.

A few minutes later, they shook hands, and parted on terms of great friendliness.

When he was alone, Mr. Buffler carefully placed his property on a shelf where it would be safe from accident.

Then he waited, filling in the time by dusting his stock.

"He must have been delayed," he muttered, rather uneasily, as the clock struck five.

Then he retired into the house for tea but did not mention the little transaction to his housekeeper. He finished his tea somewhat quickly and returned to the shop.

... ...

Disillusionment.

At eight o'clock, which was time for closing, Mr. Buffler was thoroughly alarmed by the continued absence of Mr. Langton.

He began to have decided suspicions. He looked again at the mediæval knight, whose every feature was now familiar as if they had been lifelong friends.

"I wonder if it's a swindle, after all!" he muttered angrily. "Maybe it is. This is what comes of making easy money."

As he was about to turn out the last light, a sudden thought occurred to him.

"I know what I'll do. I'll take it along to old Clipstone. He might be able to advise me."

Accordingly, he wrapped up the statuette and sallied along to see Mr. Septimus Clipstone, a furniture dealer who claimed to possess some knowledge on matters artistic.

The furniture dealer was seated at his desk at the end of a large showroom. He looked up as his visitor entered.

"Evening!" was his laconic greeting, a questioning look on his shrewd, parchment-like face.

Clipstone stood up and took the statuette near the electric light.

He gave it scarcely more than a glance.

"Bought it?" he enquired briefly.

"Yes. A gentleman . . ."

The other smiled sardonically.

"You got the idea it was valuable, eh?" he asked. "Well, it isn't. Might be worth ten bob!"

"What!" Mr. Buffler had steeled himself for a disappointment, but this was worse than he had anticipated.

"You see," explained his friend, "this is a copy of the famous Ferravo figure. There are dozens of them about. It's a wonder you haven't heard of the trick. You've been done!"

"The scoundrels!" gasped the tobacconist, turning pale. "I see it now. Two of them worked it—"

"That's right," nodded the other. "The genuine figure was lost a few years ago. This fraud is being worked at intervals in different districts. And they never get caught!"

In his rage, Mr. Buffler was about to hurl the offending statuette to the ground, but his friend restrained him.

"No use making matters worse," he advised in a friendly tone. "You may as well make the best of a bad job. Use it as an ornament at home."

"Perhaps you're right," muttered Buffler, grudgingly. "But if ever I come across them—" His face darkened menacingly.

The next morning, on a sudden impulse, he placed the figure on a shelf in his window.

He reflected that some day he might sell it for a few shillings. It also occurred to him that it might attract attention to his window displays.

The mediæval knight, therefore, became familiar to the people who passed the tobacco shop.

In time, they ceased to be interested, although a few customers jokingly asked where it came from, a subject upon which Mr. Buffler was singularly reticent.

Unexpected Visitor.

One summer's afternoon, however, about six months after his unfortunate transaction, Mr. Buffler had a visitor.

He was an elderly man, quaintly dressed in old-fashioned clothes and had a slight foreign accent. His overcoat was tightly buttoned up, despite the warm day.

"Sir," he exclaimed, with an obvious attempt to conceal excitement and emotion, "you have a statuette in your window!"

"That's right, sir," asserted the tobacconist, with a faint show of interest. "Like to buy it?"

"Sir, it is my property!" replied the visitor, in a shrill voice.

"Oh!"

His eyes glowed with joy as the figure was produced for his inspection.

"Ah!" he exclaimed, gazing at it and fondling it almost lovingly. "At last! Five years," he added to himself. "I had almost given up hope."

Mr. Buffler began to display more interest in the matter.

"I don't understand, sir—" he began.

The other looked up.

"This," he volunteered, grandly, "is the famous Ferravo statuette. It was stolen from me five years ago. I have tried everywhere to trace it. What a mercy it was that I happened to be passing through this town!"

"It was, sir," agreed the astonished tobacconist.

The visitor examined the figure with great care and seemed to be quite satisfied.

"How can I thank you, my dear sir?" he exclaimed at length. "You have solved a problem which has troubled me day and night all this time."

Mr. Buffler thought the gentleman was about to embrace him.

The tobacconist gave a full explanation of his part in the affair. The outcome was that the owner took his property away, having previously drawn a cheque for fifty pounds, which he handed to the amazed and bewildered shopkeeper.

"A slight reward, my dear sir," announced the visitor, graciously.

A minute later, Mr. Buffler was alone, staring with fascination at the strip of paper.

The first thing he did after recovering himself somewhat, was to rush with all speed to his bank.

"Genuine?" repeated the bank manager, in response to his eager enquiry. "Of course it is. Professor De Casson is a famous authority on art!"

... ...

The Wrong Knight.

The next evening, Messrs. Charles Anderson Langton and Silas Miggs were enjoying tea in their small room which was tucked snugly away from too prying eyes.

Presently Mr. Langton drew from his pocket an evening newspaper. He glanced idly through it for a few minutes, and then his eyes suddenly became rivetted upon a heading.

He turned pale and gasped for breath.

Miggs looked up at him. "What's wrong, Andy?' he asked.

Langton did not reply, but flung the paper to the ground and rushed across the room to a large cupboard.

He opened the door, revealing two shelves on which rested several figures of mediæval knights, which all looked exactly alike.

With feverish haste, Mr. Langton took each one in turn, examined it and placed it on the table.

His partner looked on in amazement.

Mr. Langton loosened his collar slightly.

"You remember," he said, in low, measured tones of concentrated rage, "that we were saving the genuine Ferravo until we felt it was safe to sell?"

"Yes," faltered Miggs. "What—?"

"You blind, blundering idiot," snarled Langton, hurling one of the figures at his partner. "You sold it to that tobacconist!"

The End.

The characters in this story are entirely imaginary. No reference is intended to any living person or to any public or private company.

BANKS' UNSURPASSED SERVICES

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL STATEMENT

In his statement to the shareholders of the National Provincial Bank Ltd., the chairman, Mr. Colin F. Campbell, pointed out that the field open to banking activities has been greatly extended by the virtual disappearance of unemployment and the general rise in money incomes.

Mr. Campbell ventured to think that there are many who were beginning to appreciate the services offered by the Joint Stock Banks which were, in fact, unsurpassed in any other country in the world.

Referring to the pronounced trend towards expansion of banking funds, Mr. Campbell declared that there was no deep mystery about that. Experience of the last war had taught that large-scale continuous Government financing by borrowing from the banking system engendered continuous growth of deposits. The main justification of that type of financing was based upon the necessity of bridging the gap between national expenditure and other types of revenue, but there were obvious dangers attached to it.

No great harm need necessarily result from an increase in purchasing power provided the excess was not spent in consumption of the limited supply of commodities. There was, however, good reason to think that more than was desirable in the national interest was still being spent in that way. There was urgent need for every individual to curtail still further his or her consumption of goods and to lend savings direct to the Government.

The outlook a year ago, added Mr. Campbell, had indeed been obscure and we were thankful that a great deal of uncertainty had since been dissipated. We now knew exactly where we stood vis-a-vis the leading nations of the world, and we had the further knowledge that the combined resources of our allies and ourselves would become overwhelming as the war progressed.

The accounts disclosed a net profit of £1,057,783 as a result of the year's work and the chairman mentioned that 2,848 men, or 43 per cent. of the pre-war male staff, were serving with the armed forces at the end of the year.

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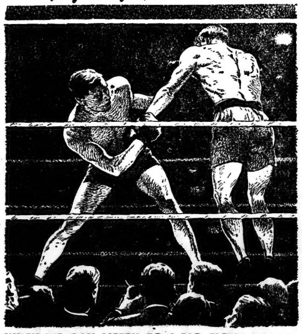

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OUR MERCHANT SEAMEN

DESERVE BETTER CONDITIONS

By OWEN RUTTER

Never, in all our history, have we owed so much to our merchant seamen as we do to-day.

They are the Freemen of the Seas who, without compulsion, cheerfully sail their ships week after week, month after month, risking the chances of torpedo, bomb and mine, to bring us food; and raw materials for making war. They will go on doing this until we achieve victory. We have acknowledged our gratitude to them—in the press, over the air, and in places where men make speeches. But are we prepared to translate sentiment into action? What are we doing, what are we going to do for them?

Since the outbreak of war their rate of pay has been increased, with war risk bonus and "differential payment," by £7 a month, though it is still far below the wages earned by some of the seamen of our allies; and the Merchant Seamen's Reserve Pool assures permanent employment to the majority. But history shows all too plainly that whereas during a war British seamen have been on the top line, to use a naval expression, they come down with a bump as soon as peace has been proclaimed. It was so after the last war. It was so after the Napoleonic wars.

Let us show that the national memory is not so short in the days of George the Sixth as it was in the days of George the Third. And it is better that we should act now while that service to the country is high in our thoughts than wait until the war is over.

First, it is reasonable to ask what the merchant seamen want themselves.

Slums of the Sea.

A few weeks ago I travelled with an east coast convoy in a merchant ship. I saw something of the strain and danger to which the seaman is exposed every time he puts to sea. As I stood on the bridge beside the pilot who was taking the ship into her port of destination he turned to me and said:

"Until I took on this work I never realised that there are slums at sea as well as on the land."

Slum conditions breed slum-dwellers, and the merchant seamen need better living conditions, not so much in the large passenger liners, but in the coasters and the deep-sea cargo ships which are the backbone of our merchant navy and carry the bulk of British sea-borne trade.

Not only do the men's quarters, which are often cramped and dirty, need improvement, but the manner in which their food is cooked and served. The quality of the food is usually good enough, but it makes a great deal of difference to decent men whether their meals are served on clean plates or from dixies on tin dishes. We might as well take as an example some of the Scandinavian tankers, in which conditions are better than in other European ships, though some of our own great shipping companies are thoughtful of their men's comfort; providing boys to wait and clean up the mess-rooms, and giving the ratings bunks with sheets and blankets, which induces them to sign on again and again in the same ship.

I was discussing this matter a short time ago in the famous Red Ensign Seamen's Club, where I was staying as a guest. The men I was talking to were both young, unmarried. They had chosen the sea as their profession before the war; they were friends and they liked to ship together when they could. They were then on leave, having been torpedoed in E-Boat Alley off the east coast, along which I had lately passed, and were making plans for getting another ship. They were thoughtful, intelligent men and gave me their opinions objectively and without rancour.

Both agreed that the chief need of the merchant navy was improvement in the men's conditions at sea. Some ships were all right, others weren't. The trouble was that the bad ships never got any better, because it was nobody's business to see that they did. The average master, they said, didn't care whether the men were comfortable or not. If he made a complaint he would get a black mark from his owners and as he had a fresh crew every trip it was easier to know nothing and do nothing. As for the men, they might "moan" during the voyage, but once they got ashore they had their remedy by signing on in a different ship; if they did make a complaint ashore they would be told to come back next day, which meant hanging about the docks when they wanted to go back to their homes.

Then for those who were unmarried, or had no homes to go to, life ashore wasn't much fun, they said. They didn't know where to go, they hadn't anything to do. They weren't interested in the same things as landsmen, they belonged to the sea. Plenty of mothers, said Jim, wouldn't allow their daughters to associate with merchant seamen. The Missions did their best, but that was too much like charity.

"The only Missions that are any good are the ones in Australia," said Arthur. "They look after you, give dances, help you to make friends."

An Assured Living.

Both Jim and Arthur had reached the age when they had begun to think of the future. They wanted an assured living, but could not see it in their own profession. Yet it seemed so little to ask. They were trained seamen. They knew their job. They were really happy at sea. They had no ambition to be officers. All they wanted was an assurance of permanent work, not casual labour, under reasonably decent conditions, at a fair wage. Both had had experience of shore jobs and had gone back to sea because they couldn't stand life ashore. Yet each admitted that if offered a decent job with good prospects, he would leave the sea. Thus the merchant navy would lose two fine men of the best type, without making any effort to keep them as, before the war, it was losing hundreds every year.

Our merchant seamen do not search out the enemy, but they face them with resolution when the need comes. And if we can send them to sea, confident of our gratitude, knowing that, both in war and peace, they may look forward to the assurance of their due with a quiet mind, we shall be ensuring their freedom and independence and also fashioning a stronger second-line of sea defence than this country has ever known.

A GREAT LIFE

STACKS OF ORANGES AND BANANAS

Pte. W. Griggs, Royal Engineers, serving in the Middle East, is thoroughly enjoying himself.

In a letter to his mother, Mrs. Griggs, of 14 Cheriton-avenue, Ramsgate, Pte. Griggs wrote: "Tell Percy I am sorry I am unable to send him any oranges and bananas. I only wish I could. We get stacks of them here."

Pte. Griggs said he had just had a quiet but very enjoyable seven days' leave.

"We have got winter here now and have actually had some rain," he wrote. "It is very cold in the morning, especially as we have to get out of a warm bed at 4.30 a.m. It is cold enough for a pair of braces. Please don't worry about me. I am O.K. and feeling absolutely fine. It's a great life in the R.Es—plenty of work and long hours, but I like it."

Pte. Griggs enclosed several snaps of himself, one of which was taken against a background of palm trees.

SOLICITOR'S APPOINTMENT

Mr. Edward Yates, formerly assistant solicitor to Margate Corporation, has been appointed solicitor and clerk to the Southwick Urban District Council.

Beginning his career in the Town Clerk's office at Stoke-on-Trent, Mr. Yates was from 1914 to 1932 deputy clerk to Herne Bay District Council. For the next three years he was deputy clerk to the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council and then for five years served with Margate Corporation.

Since leaving Margate in 1940 Mr. Yates has been solicitor and acting clerk to the Gipping Rural District Council.

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INFLATION MINIMISED

MIDLAND BANK CHAIRMAN LOOKS AHEAD

Comparing the differences between the internal financial measures adopted in this war and the last, the Rt. Hon. R. McKenna, chairman of the Midland Bank Ltd., in his statement to the shareholders, declared that the methods adopted for financing the present war had helped to minimise inflation.

"Indeed," he stated, "notwithstanding the growth in the volume of money and the upward course of prices, it may properly be concluded that there has been little inflation so far, the rise in prices being attributable to non-monetary causes which it would have been almost impossible to offset by monetary means. In any event the rise in the cost of living index number to date has been much less marked than in the corresponding period of the last war, notwithstanding the incidence of the purchase tax.

"The experience gained in the past ten years in currency policy has contributed materially to this advance, which has carried us a long way on the road from a supposedly self-regulating system to one of continuous management. We have only to look at the results in order to see how great has been the improvement upon the methods practised in the last war. Although this time again a huge creation of national debt has been inevitable, the proportion of Government expenditure which has been covered in that way is smaller, and the current rate of charge falling on the Exchequer vastly reduced.

"Moreover, the instrument of taxation has been used more with the conscious purpose of diverting to the Government a large part of the purchasing power which, if left in private hands, might be used to bid against the Government for limited supplies of goods and services. Another means towards the same end has been the device of 'compulsory saving,' which defers purchasing power until a time after the war when it may perform a valuable economic and social function."

Referring to the post-war perils ahead, Mr. McKenna urged that there should be no hasty abandonment of necessary controls in finance. The natural predisposition to get rid of all restrictions as soon as possible must be resisted.

"If we are wise in our preception of the proper limits within which freedom and control should respectively operate," he declared, "a financial system can be evolved which will be a powerful factor in the creation and maintenance of national well-being."

HOME FROM HOME CLUB

EVACUEES' NEW PREMISES

The Uttoxeter Home from Home Club for Evacuees was given a new lease of life last week when more comfortable headquarters were opened at Bradley House.

The club president, Mrs. E. K. Wilkinson, of Ramsgate, presided at the opening ceremony, which was performed by Miss M. E. Herbert.

Mrs. Wilkinson explained that the club was formed at the instigation of the Ministry of Health. She hoped the visitors would feel with the members that the club had been a success, for it had progressed since its inception. There had been changes in the membership as some of the members left when their husbands in the evacuation areas found work in safe places, and others came to Uttoxeter.

The majority of the members, said Mrs. Wilkinson, came from Ramsgate and the Isle of Thanet, but there were others from Birmingham, Coventry, London, Manchester, Liverpool and even Guernsey. They were a real mixed company, but there had been no cross words.

They were shocked when they heard that their former club premises, the Catholic Guild Hall, had been taken for a feeding centre, but after an appeal to the Urban Council relief soon came with the announcement that Bradley House had been requisitioned and they were all agreed that they were better off for the move.

Mrs. Wollen said they had many more facilities at Bradley House. They had facilities for bathing, laundering, cooking, a playroom for children, reading and writing rooms and a lending library, so they were advancing in other ways besides securing better premises.

Some people looked on evacuees as a liability, said Mrs. Wollen, but she felt that if they could get the Home from Home Club continued after the war as a permanent full-time social centre, Uttoxeter's evacuees would have been considered an asset.

Mr. G. J. W. Mosley, on behalf of the Urban Council, said they wished the evacuees to have every possible comfort while in the town and the Council had shown that desire by requisitioning Bradley House. Many local inhabitants had given their time, money and goods to help the club and sincere thanks were extended to them.

RAMSGATE GIRLS THANKED

The Minister of Aircraft Production has expressed his thanks to Eileen Gibbs and Joyce Abbott, two Ramsgate girls, for the part they are playing in the war effort.

Some time ago the girls handed to the Ramsgate Savings Committee for the Spitfire Fund the sum of 10s. which they had secured from the sale of "V" brooches made from beads. They have now come along with a second contribution of £1.

Joyce and Eileen have many more orders for brooches but they have difficulty in obtaining the beads. Those used so far have been obtained from old lamp shades and gifts from readers possessing such articles would be welcomed.

ROGERS
For RADIO—TELEVISION—PIANOS—and MUSICAL GOODS
102 HIGH STREET, RAMSGATE
'Phone 870

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW

MOTHER OF FIVE BOUND OVER

A woman of 30, mother of five children, Mrs. Rhoda Hall, of Canterbury-road, Margate, formerly living at Ramsgate, was placed on probation for a year at Margate police court on Wednesday for stealing from 15 Hatfeild-road a piece of American cloth, value 7s. 6d., the property of Mrs. Louisa Hyett.

On the application of the Chief Constable (Mr. W. Palmer), the charge was reduced from one of housebreaking to larceny.

At the previous hearing D/C Tinson said that on 9th January he found the scullery window of 15 Hatfeild-road, which was furnished but unoccupied, had been forced and in the yard were a number of small footprints in the snow leading to and from a wall at the bottom of the garden. Looking over the wall into the garden of defendant's house he saw a chair, and footprints leading from it to the rear of her house. He interviewed defendant and on the table in the kitchen saw a piece of American cloth which Mrs. Hyett identified as her property. Defendant said she bought the cloth in Ramsgate.

Defendant told the magistrates she had five children between the ages of four and 14. She denied ever having been in 15 Hatfeild-road and said she bought the American cloth in Ramsgate. It had been on the table for about three months.

The Chief Constable said Mrs. Hyett identified the cloth by the folds in it, and asked if there would have been such folds in it if it had been in use for three months.

Defendant said she had not noticed any folds in it.

Daphne Mary Johnson, of Marlowe-road, a friend of defendant, said she went to the house nearly every day and had washed over the table with a piece of American cloth on it. It was whitish and similar to that produced in court.

The Chief Constable said Mrs. Hall, who was a native of Cumberland, formerly lived at Ramsgate. The police knew nothing to her detriment.

The Chairman (Alderman E. S. Linington) said in view of her previous good character defendant would be placed on probation for 12 months.

WEBB—WILLING

MARGATE COUPLE MARRIED AT SOUTHAMPTON

The wedding took place at Swanmore Parish Church, Southampton, last week of Bdr. Bernard Frank Webb, R.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Webb, of Wellesley-road, Margate, temporarily living at Andover, Hants, and Miss Lorna Betty Willing, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. H. Willing, of The Rising Sun, Swanmore, and formerly of the Rodney Hotel, Garlinge, and the Ritz Cinema, Birchington.

The bridegroom, who before the war was employed at a Margate printing works, was evacuated from Dunkirk with the B.E.F. The bride, and her two sisters Joan and Marjorie, are serving with the Women's Land Army on Lord Lymington's estate near Basingstoke.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a gown of ivory satin, with train of silk net worked with true lovers' knots, with veil and mantilla headdress of silver and orange blossom. She carried a bouquet of scarlet carnations.

The bridesmaids were the Misses Joan, Audrey and Marjorie Willing (sisters) and Miss Sheila Willing (cousin). Two wore pale pink and two pale blue silk taffeta dresses, with silver headdresses and veils. They carried shower bouquets of pink and blue carnations.

The Rev. A. H. Brown officiated and the service was fully choral.

EDUCATION TRIBUTE

TO ST. LAWRENCE VICAR

Appreciation of the work in the interests of education performed by the Rev. C. P. Cowland-Cooper, Vicar of St. Lawrence, who last week took over the living of Bicester, Oxfordshire, was expressed at a meeting of Ramsgate Education Committee on Wednesday.

Councillor the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth said Mr. Cowland-Cooper had been a member of the committee for only two years but he had done uesful work and they were sorry he was leaving them. At St. Lawrence he had done his work in an efficient, quiet way, and he had done a great deal for the children in his own schools. The committee were grateful for the interest he had taken in the children of St. Lawrence. They wished him well in the new sphere of activity to which he was going.

The chairman (Alderman W. T. Smith) said Mr. Cowland-Cooper would have been present at the meeting but for the fact that the vans arrived that morning to remove his furniture. A lot of trouble had been experienced over Manston Schools but they came to an amicable agreement with Mr. Cowland-Cooper as to the manner in which the schools were to be dealt with after the war.

ANDY AGAIN

BRITISH THRILLER AT KING'S

A new Andy Hardy picture and a British thriller are included in the programmes at the King's Theatre, Ramsgate, this week.

"Life Begins for Andy Hardy," showing to-day and to-morrow, deals with the problems facing youth following graduation from high school. It finds young Andy cutting home ties to go to New York and work for a month. At the end of this time he plans to make a decision concerning his future—whether he shall continue to work or go on to college. Never before in a Hardy film has Mickey Rooney found a more brilliant opportunity for his talents. With him, as guest star with the family for the third time, is Judy Garland as Betsy Booth. In addition to Lewis Stone and Fay Holden, two new personalities, Patricia Dane and Ray McDonald are introduced. The programme also includes "Criminals Within," featuring Eric Linden and Ann Doran.

Wilfrid Lawson, one of our greatest character actors, gets the meatiest role of his career in "Tower of Terror," which heads the bill for the latter part of the week. The theme concerns the thrilling activities of the British Secret Service in Germany, and the risks they take, in this instance to secure photostatic prints of fortifications, etc. Movita, lovely Hollywood star, co-stars with Lawson in this dramatic story which is set in a lighthouse off the North German coast close to the Netherland border. "Father Steps Out," a comedy containing both action and suspense, starring Frank Albertson, Jed Prouty and Lorna Gray, will be included in the supporting programme

Staff Sgt. W. J. Heydon and his baby daughter Jacqueline.

A GALLANT FAMILY

In a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heydon, of Pauline Villa, Trinity-place, Ramsgate, Staff Sgt. W. J. Heydon, R.A., prisoner of war in Germany, revealed that his brother, Bdr. G. F. Heydon, who was serving with him in the Battle of Crete, was killed on 20th May last. Mr. and Mrs. Heydon's third son, L/Cpl. A. H. Heydon, is serving with the Royal Tank Regiment. Their fourth son, Oliver, is waiting to be called up and their only daughter, Miss Winifred Ann Heydon, is in the State Nursing Service.

Bdr. G. F. Heydon.

L/Cpl. Albert H. Heydon.

AMBULANCE DRIVER FINED

COLLISION WITH DESPATCH RIDER

With his right arm bandaged, an Army despatch rider limped with difficulty across the court at Margate on Wednesday to give evidence against a civil defence ambulance driver.

The motor cycle he had been riding had been in collision with the ambulance driven by Harold Bourne, of Beatrice-road, Margate, who was summoned for driving without due care and attention.

Bourne, represented by Mr. M. Borg, denied the charge, but was convicted and fined £5.

The despatch rider, Pte. George Rodney Pye, said he was driving down Bath-road on the afternoon of 24th November and when he reached the junction with Dane-road was undecided which way to go. The road was clear both ways.

"All I can remember is a blue flash across the front of me," said witness, "and I was struck." He had been in hospital ever since.

In reply to Mr. Borg, witness said the front wheel of his motor cycle was a little way into Dane-road and he was almost stationary.

John William Thomas, senior fire guard, of Bath-road, Margate, said he was walking along Dane-road towards Bath-road when his attention was attracted by the noise of a civil defence ambulance coming from behind him. The ambulance passed him at a very fast speed and did not attempt to slow down as it approached Bath-road. The car struck the motor cyclist, who was almost stationary, and continued quite a distance before stopping.

Swiped Off the Bike.

"He came along and swiped him off the bike," said Mrs. Molly Thomas, wife of the previous witness, giving her version of the accident. The motor cyclist was thrown into the air and did not move when he fell back into the road

P/C Maskelyne said he interviewed defendant, who made a statement in which he said he was driving from the Town Yard, King-street, towards Wilderness-hill at about 30 to 35 miles per hour. "When I was at the bottom of Bath-road," continued the statement, "I realised an Army motor cycle was on top of me. I swerved to the right and heard the motor cycle hit my ambulance. I applied my brakes and went into a skid. I had no chance to avoid the accident." Defendant added that he went back to assist the injured man. He (defendant) did not sound his horn.

P/C Maskelyne said he found the ambulance 132ft. up the road. Defendant pointed out to him skid marks running from the manhole near which the soldier was lying. There was one running 36ft. from the centre of the road, then continuing for 24ft. diagonally across the road to the offside kerb. The ambulance was 72ft. further along the road.

Witness agreed that there would be a considerable amount of roll with such a vehicle, which was a converted ambulance, if the brakes were applied sharply.

Mr. Borg said defendant had come from the Town Yard, which was only 270 yards from the scene of the accident, and the motor cyclist should have been able to see down the road as far as the Town Yard. Defendant had been driving since 1922 and 18 months before the war, started training with ambulances. He had been driving them ever since, and in four days during the Dunkirk evacuation travelled about 500 miles. During all his motoring experience he had never previously had an accident and had never been convicted of any offence. On that occasion he was driving a converted vehicle, with soft springs and a fairly big body, which in an emergency would roll.

The Chairman (Mr. W. Booth Reeve): All the more reason for care.

In addition to the fine of £5, defendant was ordered to pay £1 expenses for the soldier, who had come from Orpington to give evidence.

The Chief Constable (Mr. W. Palmer) expressed his thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas for coming forward voluntarily to give evidence.

Government offices in London are now employing blind shorthand writers who take down their notes on machines which prick out the characters on long strips of paper for transcription on the typewriter by touch.

LOSS OF H.M.S. THANET

VISIT TO RAMSGATE RECALLED

The loss of H.M. destroyer Thanet announced by the Admiralty on Thursday came as a shock to the people of Thanet.

The Thanet was sunk during an engagement with a Japanese force consisting of one cruiser and three destroyers off Endau on the east coast of the Malayan Peninsula. Thanet, in company with H.M.A.S. Vampire, a destroyer of the Royal Australian Navy, at once engaged the enemy, who retired. In the running fight one Japanese destroyer was sunk and a second damaged.

An Admiralty statement announcing the loss of the Thanet, a vessel of 905 tons, under Cmdr. B. S. Davies, R.N., added "it is hoped that many of the ship's company will have reached the shore." Her normal complement was 98, most of whom came from Devonport.

Tokio officials stated that some survivors were picked up.

Presentations of Plate.

The Thanet towns had a close association with the destroyer named after the island.

Not only was the North Foreland lighthouse adopted as her badge, but both the officers' wardroom and the men's mess possessed pieces of plate presented by the inhabitants of Ramsgate and Margate, during the Mayoralty of the late Mr. H. C. Child, of Ramsgate, and Mr. W. Booth Reeve, of Margate.

As soon as she had been completed at Chatham in 1919, H.M.S. Thanet paid a visit to Ramsgate, where the presentations were made.

Ramsgate's gift was a silver salver for the wardroom and Margate established a happy precedent in Naval history by presenting a silver cake dish for the messroom of the lower deck.

After the ceremony Cmdr. J. V. Creagh, D.S.O., presented Mr. Child and Mr. Booth Reeve with handsome plaques of the ship's badge.

Later when on service in the Baltic the officers of H.M.S. Thanet sent each member of the committee organising the presentations a silver ash tray.

Thanet had been in eastern waters for some years. In January, 1939, she chased a Japanese destroyer and forced her to give up a seized Chinese fishing junk.

NINETY NOT OUT

RAMSGATE CLERGYMAN'S BIRTHDAY

The Rev. A. J. Steed, M.A., of 16 Vale-square, Ramsgate, last week received a host of congratulations on the celebration of his 90th birthday.

Educated at Queen's College, Birmingham, Mr. Steed was ordained at Worcester Cathedral in 1875 and two years later took his degree at Durham University.

Before coming to Ramsgate in 1911 Mr. Steed was for 20 years Vicar of Tuttington, Norfolk. He was licensed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to officiate in the diocese of Canterbury and Rochester and since then has officiated in over 60 churches.

At the outbreak of war Mr. Steed was on the honorary staff of St. George's Church. He left the town for a few months late in 1940 but soon returned.

HAPPY WOMAN'S TRAGIC DEATH

GAS ESCAPE IN BEDROOM

Described as a most happy, active, high-spirited woman, with no worries at all, Mrs. Ada Augusta Rebecca Freed a widow, aged 74, met her death under tragic circumstances in the room she occupied at 37 Cannonbury-road, Ramsgate, on Tuesday night.

As she was not seen about as usual on Wednesday morning, the door of her room was forced by a police officer and she was found lying peacefully dead in bed. Gas was still escaping from a ring on the gas stove.

"There is nothing in this case whatever to indicate or suggest that deceased in any way wished to end her life or took any steps to do so," said the Borough Coroner (Mr. J. H. Robinson), who returned a verdict of "Accidental death" at the inquest on Thursday.

Mr. Philip William Matthews, of Harpenden-road, West Norwood, son of Mrs. Freed, said his mother was a widow and her second husband was a retired railway ticket collector. His mother had always been in very good health and was active and cheerful. He last saw her a fortnight previously when she was quite happy. She had never given any indication that she was the type of person likely to take her own life. She had not worries whatever.

Died in Her Sleep.

Called to 37 Cannonbury-road at 10.40 the previous morning, Dr. W. J. Dunlop said there was a strong smell of gas as he went upstairs. Mrs. Freed was lying in bed in her room in her night attire but there was no sign of life or injury. Ambulance attendants had been applying the novox apparatus without success. He thought Mrs. Freed had been dead for seven or eight hours and death was consistent with coal gas poisoning. She was lying very peacefully in bed and there were no signs that she had taken any steps to gas herself. He thought Mrs. Freed died in her sleep.

Mrs. Madeline Elkreton, also of 37 Cannonbury-road, said a number of elderly people had rooms in the house. Mrs. Freed had a combined bed-sittingroom. She was always a smiling, happy woman. In her room she had a gas stove in which she did her own cooking.

Witness said that the previous morning at 8 o'clock she went downstairs to get in the milk. On the landing outside Mrs. Freed's door she smelt gas so she roused Mr. Ashton, who came up with her and went into the bedroom on the same floor occupied by Mr. Thomas. There was no gas escaping there so witness tried Mrs. Freed's door but it was locked, as usual.

Every morning at about 7.30 Mrs. Freed used to go out for a couple of hours. Mrs. Freed was very deaf and would not have heard if they had knocked on the door. They thought Mrs. Freed had gone out, so witness went downstairs. Witness went out to see her daughter at 9.30 and when she returned she heard that Mrs. Freed was dead.

Became Alarmed.

Mr. William Wilfred Kenneth Augustus Ashton, tenant of No. 37 Cannonbury-road, said when he was called by Mrs. Elkreton he came to the conclusion Mrs. Freed was out. They never knew whether she was out or in as she always kept her door locked. There was nothing alarming about the smell of gas. Later as they saw nothing of Mrs. Freed they got alarmed and sent for a war reserve constable who lived next door.

W/R Nixon said he was called to the house at about 10 a.m. the previous day and told there was a smell of gas coming from Mrs. Freed's room and that she had not been seen that morning. Witness forced open the door and inside the room there was a strong smell of gas. He could hear gas escaping from a cooking stove. The tap of one of the gas rings was half on. A small oil lamp was alight in the room. Mrs. Freed was lying in bed and he formed the opinion she was dead. Nothing was disturbed in the room and no preparations had been made by Mrs. Freed to do away with herself. The room was tidy as though Mrs. Freed had gone to bed in the normal way.

Returning his verdict, the Coroner said he was satisfied that death was due to an accident, although it was difficult to know how Mrs. Freed came to allow the gas to be on. All sorts of explanations occurred to one's mind. It would be a consolation to the relatives to know that Mrs. Freed died in the most peaceful possible way.

RAMSGATE GROUP SAVINGS

A number of Ramsgate savings group secretaries have still not informed the joint campaign secretaries, at 24 King-street, Ramsgate, of the amounts saved by their groups during the "Tank before Christmas campaign," when £29,180 was saved as compared with the target of £20,000.

It would be helpful if these could be sent in as early as possible as it is only by examining these returns that it is possible to judge what progress is being made by the savings movement in Ramsgate.

The "V" for Victory (Vale-square) group, which is still quite new, started the "Tank before Christmas campaign" before Christmas with a membership of six and chose £5 as its target. By the time Christmas arrived its membership had grown to 11 and the total saved was £11 4s.

The Manston-road group, also a comparatively new group, but with a membership of 45, saved £135 6s. 6d. during the same period, while the St. Lawrence Laundry group, with a membership of 70, saved £47 11s. 3d. The energetic secretary of both of these groups is Miss P. H. Hallums, of 5 Manston-road.

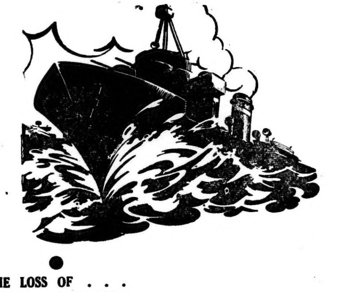
National Savings in Ramsgate last week amounted to £2,004, composed of £812 in Savings Certificates and an increase of £1,192 due to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank.

POLICE BEAT THE NAVY

For the first time Ramsgate Borough Police beat the Royal Navy in a shooting match at Willson's-road Drill Hall on Wednesday.

The margin of victory was one point —241 to 240.

The scores were: Police—S/C Page 10 and 18, D/C Oram 20 and 19, P/C Housden 15 and 20, S/C Fearn 0 and 20, P/C Shanahan 15 and 18, Inspr. Fittall 5 and 10, S/C Luckett 15 and 19, P/S Jenner 20 and 17. Royal Navy—A/B Harmer 20 and 20, A/B Darram 15 and 18, A/B Tilby 0 and 18, A/B Chapman 15 and 16, Lt. Boulter 20 and 20, A/B Price 10 and 17, A/B Marsh 0 and 17, C/P/O Gray 15 and 19.



THE LOSS OF . . .
H.M.S. THANET

A CHALLENGE
TO
SAVINGS GROUPS
THROUGHOUT
THANET

They Can't do this to us
Without Reply

DO IT DURING YOUR COMING
WARSHIPS WEEK

SAVE — SAVE — SAVE
Replace — Replace — Replace

A YEAR AGO

A twin-engined German raider which dived out of the clouds to within 200ft. of the ground dropped four bombs in an estate which formerly formed part of a school at a Kent coast town on Tuesday. One bomb completely demolished an unoccupied cottage. Another wrecked a house in the grounds and four men were shaken and had slight cuts.

* * * *

The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary and Minister for Home Security, has announced his intention to pay a visit to Ramsgate shortly.

* * * *

Son of the late Nurse Dier, of Albion-place, Ramsgate, 2nd-Lieut. George Eric Cyril Dier, of the Royal Tank Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross for a series of daring exploits with a tank in the Middle East.

25 YEARS AGO

(CUTTINGS FROM OUR COLUMNS)

THE WAR OF 1914-18

With one exception applicants before the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Tribunal on Tuesday had to be content with very brief periods of exemption. In several cases which came under the heading of "one man business," six weeks grace was allowed to the proprietors to clear up their affairs. It was evident that in view of the coming supreme effort to crush militarism the Tribunal felt that the interests of trade must be sacrificed to the paramount claims of the Army.

* * * *

We regret to record that Pte. F. A. Went, R.M.L.I., son of Mr. F. Went, verger of St. Paul's Church, Ramsgate, was among those who went down with H.M. auxiliary cruiser Laurentic, which was mined off the Irish coast last week.

* * * *

Thanet has been frost-bound for a fortnight, an unbroken spell of cold weather which has not been known in the island for over 22 years. Skating has been taking place on the marshes at Minster.

* * * *

The death took place on Saturday of Mr. G. G. Cook, member of Ramsgate Town Council for the past 24 years and Mayor in 1913. For some years Mr. Cook was in business in High-street, Ramsgate, and upon his retirement devoted the whole of his life to public service in various capacities.

* * * *

Ramsgate, though late in making a start, has now energetically and enthusiastically entered upon the war savings campaign, and a well-organised effort is being made to secure the inclusion of every household in the movement. The wonderful success of the movement in Broadstairs is a revelation of the possibilities of enthusiastic and unflagging zeal.

* * * *

Yet another of salubrious Broadstairs' patriarchal residents has passed away in the person of Mr. Albert Hill, who, had he lived until next April, would have celebrated his 96th birthday. Mr. Hill came of an illustrious lineage. His father and also his uncles of the Hill family were all men of distinguished careers, who rendered eminent services to the nation and always in things tending to the amelioration of the lot of those classes which were unduly suffering from injustice and neglect. To the devotion and untiring efforts of the Hills of the generation preceding the subject of this notice are due many reforms, particularly in connection with the more humane treatment of prisoners. The great work in which Mr. Albert Hill was helpful to his uncle, the late Sir Rowland Hill, was in the introduction of the penny postage.

* * * *

A Margate taxi-cab driver was on Wednesday fined £1 for driving to the public danger. P/S Lepper stated that he drove at from 12 to 15 miles per hour on a dark night.

50 YEARS AGO

(CUTTINGS FROM OUR COLUMNS)

PROPERTY VALUES

We extract the following from a communication sent to the "Land Agent's Record" by Messrs. Vinten and Son, auctioneers, of Ramsgate: "We consider on the whole that during the past year the value of land and house property has been well maintained and we have been successful in realising good prices at our auction mart Smallholdings are much in request. Our residential population is steadily on the increase. The dry, pure, invigorating air of Ramsgate is becoming every year more appreciated by the medical, literary and artistic world and by invalids. Testimony to this has recently been borne in the leading journals by F. C. Burnand, Linley Samborne and Clement Scott, and many gentlemen well-known in the journalistic world have now permanent residences here. Building operations have been carried on vigorously at Broadstairs during the past few years. Business premises in our main streets are keenly contested for by investors whenever they come into the public market. Cottage property sells freely."

PRESENTED BELLS TO ST. GEORGE'S

The announcement of the death of Mr. G. J. Palmer, founder and proprietor of the "Church Times," which took place at his Ramsgate residence on Wednesday, will be received with profound regret everywhere. The lamented deceased had been well-known in Ramsgate for many years, having been a constant visitor prior to taking up his residence here six or seven years ago. Naturally Mr. Palmer showed great interest in Church matters in Ramsgate and in the early days he formed one of the promoters of the Church of St. Barnabas, which it was proposed to erect on the Ellington Estate. During his residence here, however, he has been a regular attendant at St. Paul's Church. His generosity to the poor of St. Paul's will be greatly missed by the present clergy. Mr. Palmer's public spirit will be remembered in connection with his presentation of a set of bells to St. George's Church, and in contributing to the restoration of the bells of St. Lawrence Church. He was a warm supporter of all the public charities and was for a time a member of the Thanet Board of Guardians.

MUSICIAN DIVORCED

WIFE SEES OTHER WOMAN

In the Divorce Court on Monday Mr. Justice Langton heard the undefended petition of Mrs. Joan Sybil Melfi, of Hurst-road, Sidcup, for a decree nisi against her husband, Edmund Vincent Melfi, on the ground of adultery.

The marriage was in January, 1934, and they lived at various places and finally at Brunswick-street, Ramsgate.

Petitioner's case was that while living there she was taken ill and at her husband's suggestion she went to stay with her mother. That was to be a temporary arrangement but later, when she suggested that she return home, her husband wrote her asking her to meet him in London. She did so and he told her about another woman in Brighton, where he was then employed in a dance band. She and her mother then went to Brighton and she saw her husband and the woman, who said she was in love with the respondent and was expecting a baby. Her husband admitted that this was correct. Later petitioner alleged she had received a letter from the woman saying that she had a baby.

After evidence the petitioner was granted a decree nisi with poor person's costs.